

INTERNATIONAL

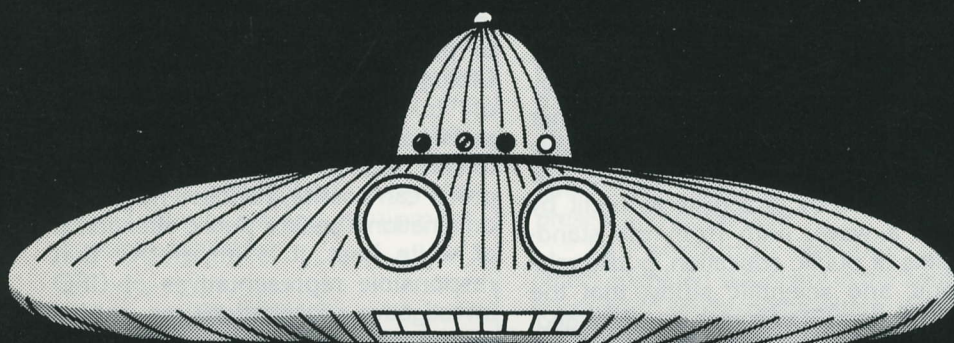
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The DARCO (near Marshall) Texas "Unwashed UFO"

CONTENTS

Nocturnal Rural Encounters:

The Truck on the Darco
(Texas) Cutoff Road

Encounter in Riverland
(near Escanaba) Michigan

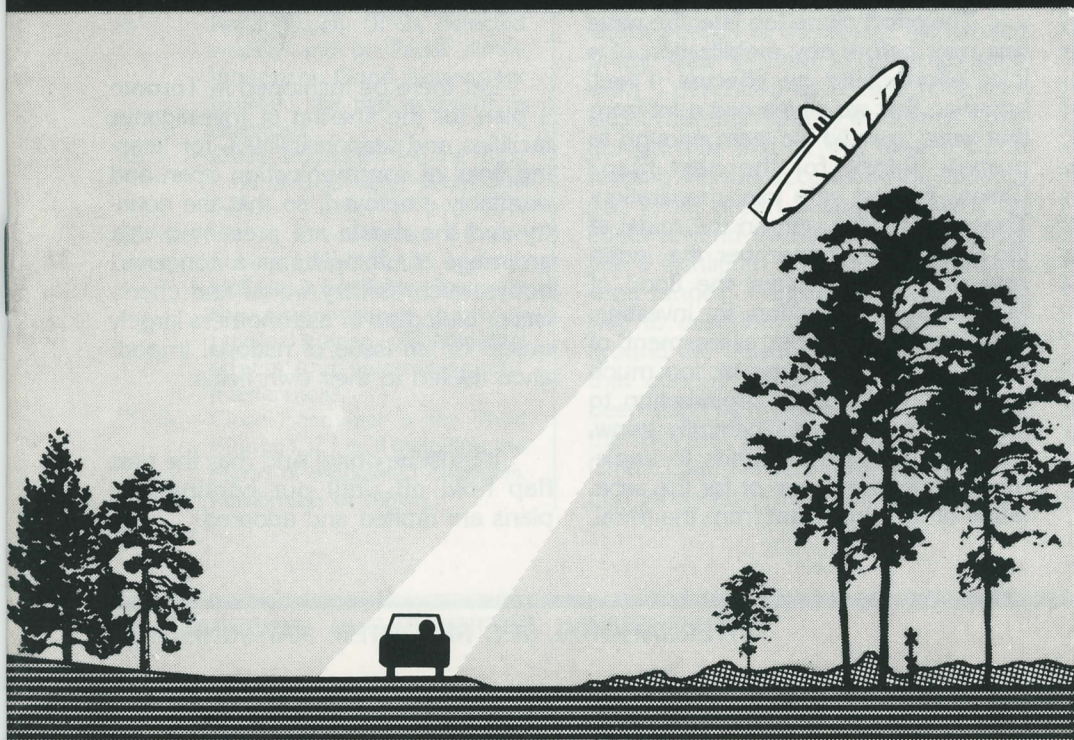
The UFO That Switched Off
the Town Lights (near
Neilsville, Wisconsin)

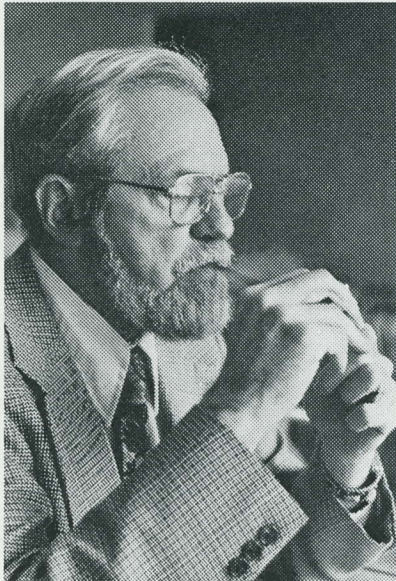
St. Helens Revisited

Up-Date on Reserve, New Mexico
"Tube-Like" UFO

Proposed CUFOS Tour in 1983

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EDITORIAL

It has long been recognized that UFO reports are more numerous at one time than another, in any one country or region. When reports are especially numerous over a period of weeks or even months, this is commonly called a "Flap." The great wave of reports in France in 1954 is an excellent example. Arguments have been waged as to whether such flaps could be explained by "media hype" or whether they are real, despite a certain amount of inevitable media stimulation. The consensus today is that such flaps are indeed real but that they occur in an unpredictable manner.

The United States had its last real wave of UFO reports in 1973, particularly in the southeastern portions of the country. It was a memorable wave, containing within one week two notable "classic" cases (the Pasca-goula 'fishermen' and the Coyne helicopter cases) and a great many other Close Encounter events. It was largely out of frustration that so little was able to be done by ufologists to profit by such a wave, both from the standpoints of public education, public relations, and scientific study, that the Center for UFO Studies was founded, to work in cooperation, it was hoped, with other groups, to act as a focus particularly for scientific purposes.

The effort came too late; the wave was over before any mobilization of a joint effort could be effected. I feel, however, that we all learned a lot from that wave, but did we learn enough to prepare jointly for the next Flap? Clearly, it must be a joint preparation. Those of us who were in the midst of the 1973 wave remember the incessant ringing of phones, the flood of requests for information, for investigations, and for reliable assessment of the flow of cases. It was far too much for any one group or organization to handle, for, as we all painfully know, there simply were no funds to implement any of the above or for the separation of the significant from the trivial.

Funds are still lacking, but nonetheless, HOW DO WE HANDLE THE NEXT FLAP? In any event, we must do better than the last time! The probabilities are high that there will be another flap and we surely don't want it to have another frenzied, disorganized, "chicken-with-head-off" reception. Instead, we should be prepared to make the most of it, to use it to bring the seriousness and the reality of the UFO phenomenon to the attention of the country's policy makers. A planned approach to the media, with a joint press conference at an appropriate time, is necessary; contact with the press should not be left to purblind scoffers who merely compound the confusion.

At the forthcoming MUFON meetings in Toronto a day will be devoted to promoting unification of effort in ufology and to emphasizing the value of "In Union there is Strength." It seems appropriate for serious planning to take place at this time. Since no one group can possibly handle a major flap on a national scale if public attention is at white heat, it is imperative that responsible representatives of UFO investigative organizations, as well as responsible individuals, pool their efforts and draft a comprehensive contingency plan for capitalizing (yes, capitalizing, scientifically and in public relations) on such an event, should it occur.

Let there be fashioned in Toronto a plan for the sharing of investigative facilities and responsibilities, for keeping lines of communication open and profitably employed, so that the country and the media are presented with an image of ufologists as a concerted body, much as they would find chemists or biologists or astronomers largely united on an issue of national importance related to their own fields.

It must be done! And may the next flap hold off until our contingency plans are drafted and adopted.

How We Learn Of UFO Sightings

UFO sighting reports reach us from news departments, civilian organizations and individuals all over the world, but most of our reports are received via the Center for UFO Studies' UFO Hotline. This 24-hour, toll-free telephone service is for the exclusive use of U.S. law enforcement agencies, FAA facilities, planetaria and other formal channels. It permits the rapid follow-up of important cases for first-hand information from the reporting witnesses. It also permits: pre-screening of most hoaxes, rapid deployment of on-site investigators and the encouragement of local official assistance.

How We Define UFOs:

A UFO is any anomalous aerial phenomena whose appearances and/or behaviours cannot be ascribed to conventional natural or man-made causes either by the original witnesses or by other technically trained analysts after thorough investigation using the best techniques and equipment currently available.

- NL — Nocturnal Light: a distant anomalous light seen in the night sky.
- DD — Daylight Disc: a distant object seen under daylight conditions, often disc-shaped.
- RV — Radar/Visual: UFOs detected visually and by Radar simultaneously. Good agreement between the two accounts is essential.
- CE I — Close Encounter of the First Kind: a UFO seen within 500 feet.
- CE II — Close Encounter of the Second Kind: a CE I which includes a verifiable change in the environment such as physical traces, physiological effects and electromagnetic interferences.
- CE III — Close Encounter of the Third Kind: a CE I or II including the report of associated creatures, humanoids or robots.

LETTERS

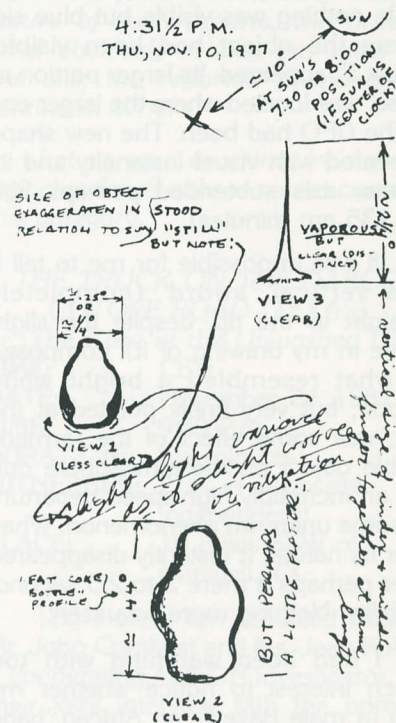
Dear Dr. Hynek:

Upon opening my March, 1982, "International UFO Reporter," I was more than a little excited to see on page 8 ("A Professional Observation," beginning on page 7.) drawings of an object that seems virtually identical in every observed respect except color, to a strange something I had watched while walking my dog at about 4:31 p.m. on Thursday, November 10, 1977, in Austin, Texas.

Enclosed is a xerox made of my original notes and drawings, done immediately after the sighting, with added notes done next morning at the P.S.I. office. Then I filed this away as a 'freak' sighting unlike any I had ever known via the literature. Only my wife, Kitty-bo, and close friends in the Project were told because of three factors: (1) the object's lack of resemblance to anything known to me as having been reported up to that time; (2) the object and event's high strangeness even to me, a jaded investigator into UFO phenomena and reports; and (3) because I had not been carrying, due to my dog's aggressive walking habits, my otherwise ever-present movie camera.

The seemingly metallic grey object appeared stationary in the south-western or south-southwestern sky, at about 10° from the sun and at the 7:30 to 8:00 position relative to it. The smaller end (See drawing "View 1") was upward and I was puzzled for the first few seconds to notice a slight light variance around the lower or larger portion of the object (Illustrated in my "View 1") that, in my notes afterward, I described as possibly due to a slight (but high-speed) wobble or vibration in that end of the object. Upon reading the KJR account of the January 18, 1966, object having displayed an effect around the larger end "...more like a Schlieren Pattern observed in a wind tunnel," I find that to be a better way to describe the "vibration" I saw around the object's larger end. In fact, that general terminology might have been used in my own notes except for the fact that I, like at least one of the China Lake Naval Ordnance Test Station observers, felt reluctant to com-

pare the observed "vibration" with an observable effect that should, to my knowledge, be limited to the optical viewing conditions in wind tunnels.



The "View 1," with the object's greater dimensions covering perhaps $1/3^\circ$ (20 arc minutes) and its lesser. $1/4^\circ$ (15 arc minutes) persisted for several seconds after I noticed it in the sky.

Then, the object profile seemed to elongate, giving an impression of rotation in such a way as to reveal a truer idea of its length to width ratio and, hence, more of its long axis. In "View 2" the object retained an estimated $1/4^\circ$ width (15 arc minutes) but lengthened to an estimated $.44^\circ$ (26 arc minutes). The larger end now evidenced very little of the "vibration" or "Schlieren Pattern" appearance in "View 1."

For maybe ten seconds the object remained as was, a profile of something that looked more flat (if seen from an end) than round, (like the 1/8/66 object) and remarkably like a vertical cross-section of an overweight

LETTERS

Coke bottle! Suddenly the shape vanished from view, having remained in the very same location prior thereto. Almost simultaneously, but possibly with a fraction of a second's delay (I am not entirely sure about the delay), while nothing was visible but blue sky where the object had been visible, "View 3" appeared. Its larger portion or 'base' was located where the larger end of the UFO had been. The new shape appeared with visual instantaneity and its greater axis subtended perhaps $2\frac{1}{4}^{\circ}$ (or 135 arc minutes).

It was impossible for me to tell if this vertical 'sword' (completely straight to the tip, despite the slight curve in my drawing of it), composed of what resembled a bright white 'vapor', but very finely pointed at the top, was some effect of the formerly visible object on the atmosphere during an incredibly high-speed departure or some unknown phenomenon. Whatever its nature, it instantly disappeared after perhaps a mere 2 to 2.5 second' visibility. Nothing more was seen.

I had been watching with too much interest to notice whether my dog (a male Basenji, an African 'barkless' breed) reacted to the event. Yet, short as the event was, the object or phenomenon had been vividly clear not only in the sky, but was also clearly etched in my mind.

Returning from the walk quickly, I made the enclosed illustrations on the back of an envelope. Next morning at the Project office I added the note that the seeming 'vapor', ion 'sword', or whatever, that instantly formed and instantly vanished had subtended the vertical arc covered by both my index and middle fingers as viewed at arm's length, plus a few other facts, as shown on the enclosed copy.

Thus, I owe real appreciation to the China Lake Naval Ordnance Test Station employee, and to CUFOS, for making available the January 18, 1966, event facts. I had given up hope of ever reading of anyone's seeing so unusual a UFO. So close in description was the former (California) object to the one observed by me on November 10, 1977, right down to the 'disturbed' or 'vibrating' pattern of light around the

larger end, that it seems reasonable to conclude that the California surveyors and I saw the same type thing — whatever its source — even though eleven years separate the two events.

As Project Starlight International's director, it is almost embarrassing to me to report so bizarre an observation without any of the instrumentally recorded data I so emphatically advocate, but it seems important for readers to know that the China Lake Case is not unique. I am an experienced observer with the Project's field crew(s), and am accustomed in estimating angular dimensions of sky objects.

I just wish there were some way of conveying the relief and excitement experienced when I saw the drawings of the China Lake UFO in IUR. So, maybe there are others who have seen this type of thing.

Ray Stanford, Director
Project Starlight International

Editors,

I want to take time from a busy schedule to congratulate CUFOS and staff on the excellent job they are doing with their various publications and reports.

Your new format, easy-to-read style International UFO Reporter is an excellent publication worthy of support by every serious UFO researcher and investigator. CUFOS needed to publish its own bulletin like other UFO organizations.

The dark print and slick paper will make for good reproduction of any variety of photographs and sketches by the UFO eyewitnesses, or charts and diagrams so important to serious progress in the UFO field.

Keep up the good work. Again, I will highly recommend your publications to all interested persons and organizations.

George D. Fawcett
Lincolnton, NC 28092

Editor:

Enclosed is an order form for a 1 year subscription to "International UFO Reporter," and a check for \$15.00 for one associate membership.

I have been a serious amateur astronomer for many years and am currently an active, observing member of A.A.V.S.O., A.L.P.O., and AAVSO SOLAR DIVISION. I use 2, 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ " reflecting telescopes and a 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " refractor, and 2 $\frac{1}{8}$ " refractor for all of my observational work on planets, the Sun, and Long Period Variable Stars.

For several years I have been a member of the Astronomical Society of Las Cruces, N.M., and personally know Clyde W. Tombaugh, the discoverer of the planet Pluto. I have also personally met, talked with, and attended a lecture by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, and I find his approach and philosophy about "UFO's" very much to my liking. That is the main reason I want to subscribe to "International UFO Reporter."

I also correspond with Mrs. Carolyn Hurless, of Lima, OH, and an active member of A.A.V.S.O. Although I've never met her personally, I feel I've known her very well for many years. I subscribe to her "unofficial" publication "Variable Views" which I enjoy so much, because it is amateur astronomy at its best. (About and for amateur astronomers.)

I certainly wish all of you great success in your very serious and objective studies of the "UFO" phenomena, and look forward with much enthusiasm to receiving your magazine "International UFO Reporter."

Michael B. Smith
Alamogordo, NM 88310

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Evanston, IL 60204

IUR

Nocturnal Rural Encounters

Over the years, and from many diverse places over the world, there has been reported a class of UFO events which presents a coherent but puzzling, and frightening, pattern. Its significance cannot be ignored but its rationale is utterly enigmatic; it forms an integral part of the total enigma of the UFO Phenomenon.

The pattern continues: within two weeks in February 1982, two outstanding cases were reported, one from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and one from central Wisconsin, a bare two hundred miles apart, and another from Texas three months earlier. All three occurred at night, at 11:30 P.M., 5:15 A.M. and 9:30 P.M., respectively. In all three cases the witnesses were in moving vehicles, in distinctly rural surroundings, and the events they experienced fit into the general pattern described below:

In this class of UFO events, the witness or witnesses (there are rarely more than two or three) experience a Close (or near close) Encounter with what definitely appears to be a physical craft or with an extremely bright light which is ostensibly attached to a craft lost in the glare of the light itself. Subsidiary lights of different colors often accompany the main light or lights. The encounter is most often along a lonely country road and, frequently, one gathers the impression that somehow a "show" was put on for the benefit of the witnesses, that in some way the event was "staged" rather than being just a chance encounter. Often the lights home-in on the hapless car occupants who are generally aware that the lights have been following the car, or maneuvering around it, for sometime. Sometimes the craft is reported to land, but more often the car occupants are too anxious to get away to note whether any landing takes place, or the details of such an event.

As to the witnesses to these encounters, there appears to be nothing "special" about them; they seem "normal" in every respect, often are of above average intelligence and are

sane and responsible by commonly accepted standards. Virtually all of them claim acquaintance with normal aircraft and stoutly maintain that their experience did not involve any conventional aircraft. This is supported by a variety of cogent reasons: the appearance of the craft (generally wingless) and the absence of conventional aircraft sounds; often there is a complete lack of sound even though the encounter is as close as one hundred feet. The claim is also supported by inquiries made to local airports and military establishments which result in denials that any conventional (or unconventional, for that matter) aircraft were in the vicinity.

The events seem so bizarre to the witnesses that they are often loathe to talk about them, much less make a formal report, for fear of almost certain ridicule or notoriety. The lack of an abundance of witnesses, which seems to be a universal situation, further singles out the lone witnesses as objects for derisive attention. It is this fact alone which is often cited as prima facie evidence for the non-existence of UFOs by the skeptical fraternity. But not even the most skeptical can deny the abundance of such reports, nor the common-sense competence of the reporters of these bizarre events, nor can they furnish a demonstrable explanation.

Finally, this class of events shares with the others comprising the UFO Phenomenon the outstanding characteristics of "localization in space and time": a given event is local in that it is rarely reported as well from adjacent or sequential locations, and it is not long-lived; ten minutes seems more than average duration for it. It also shares the frequently reported total absence of sound (or if present, is described as a hum or whine, more rarely as a high-pitched roaring sound). Further, these craft seem to defy gravity, hovering effortlessly a few feet above the ground, of landing with complete absence of swirls of dust, belching flames or deafening roar. Likewise, it can reportedly take off effortlessly with amazing

acceleration, implying large "g" forces; at other times it disappears with a smooth but rapid glide.

In the face of the utterly bizarre nature of such reports, the orderly mind obviously rebels, but rebel as one will, the reported phenomenon continues. Why?

Let us now examine, in chronological order, the three recent cases in this category.

THE TRUCK ON THE DARCO CUTOFF ROAD (TEXAS)

or, The Case of the Unwashed UFO

TIME: CE-1
DATE: November 24, 1981
TIME: 9:30 P.M.
DURATION: 8½ minutes
WITNESSES: 2 +1 (+ 2 possible independent)
PLACE: 10 miles SSW of Marshall, TX.

[Ed Note: I am indebted fully to Mr. John Combest and Ms. Jean Fuller, a cooperating MUFON investigator, for their joint interview with the primary witness, Mr. Dale Spurlock, about 30 and an employee of The Southwestern Electric Power Co. The interview took place at the exact place of the sighting, and was conducted in an exemplary manner. The detailed drawings, were made by Mr. Combest, based on careful questioning of the primary witness. Although I did not have the opportunity of investigating this case personally, I believe I could have added little to the results of these two investigators. I did, however, talk at length with Mr. Spurlock by telephone; general confirmation of basic facts was obtained as well as permission to use his name in the interests of a correct scientific record. The second witness, a young lady who was in the company of Mr. Spurlock at the time of the event, and who discussed it at length with him directly afterwards, wishes, for several reasons, not to be involved. Two pilots, flying their planes in the general neighborhood, were reported to have seen an unidentified object which could have been the object in question. Contact with them has not been possible. In addition, and probably more import-

Nocturnal Rural Encounters

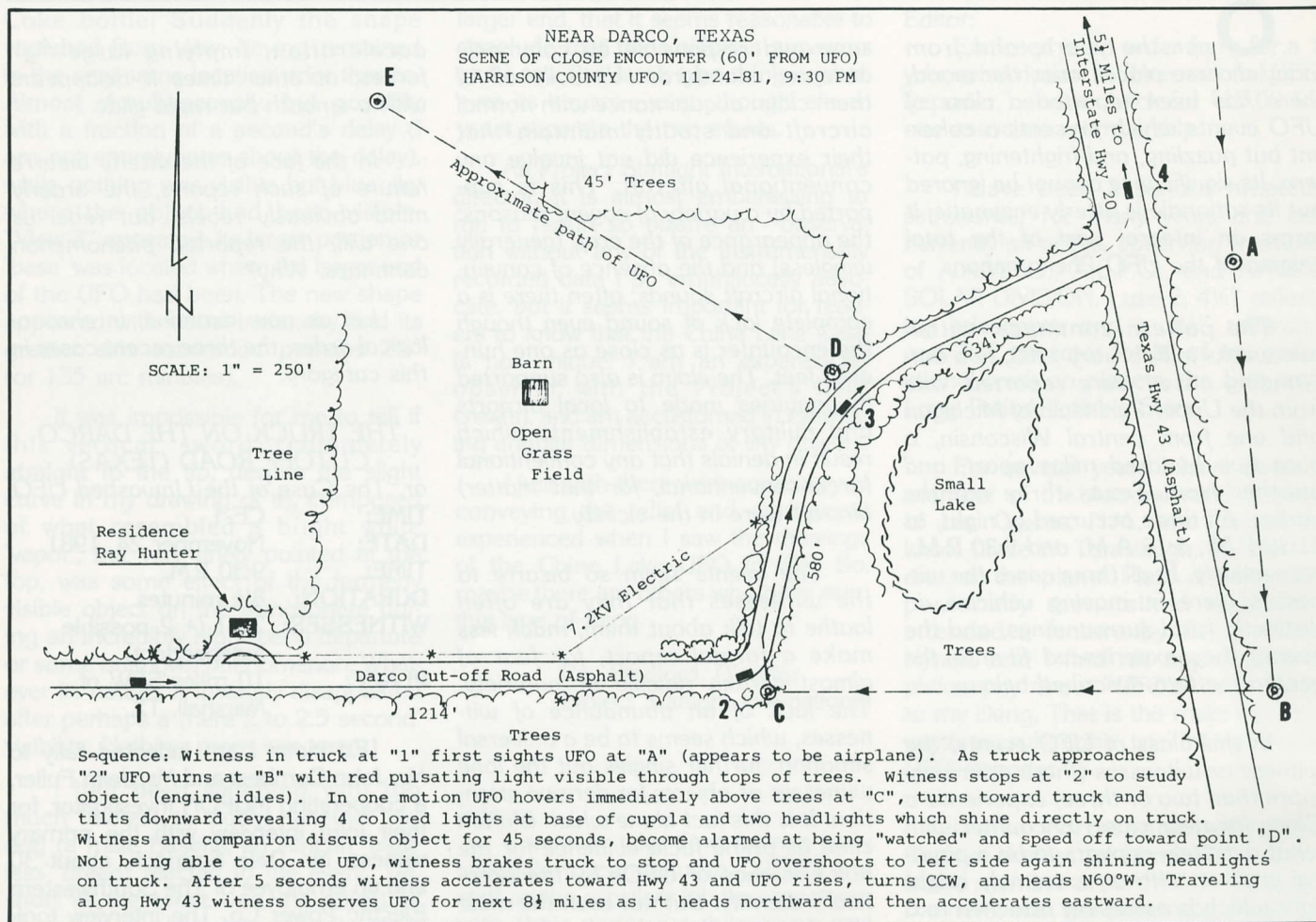


Figure 1

ant, is that an 11-year old boy, a neighbor, who had stepped outside briefly, stated that he witnessed a light travel from B to C (see diagram), the first truck stop, and then from C to D, the second truck stop.]

Sequence of Events: It is 9:30 P.M. on a clear, calm, moonless night. A 1976 Chevrolet LUV pickup is making its way along the Darco cut-off road, a small asphalt byway that connects another unmarked asphalt road with Highway 43, bypassing Darco (though why one needs to bypass Darco is moot: it is hard to find Darco even on a map on which one inch equals two miles!)

The truck with its occupants is heading due east (Point 1 on Fig. 1). They see directly ahead of them, but to the left, a bright light flying so low that it is seen mostly through the trees. "They're flying low...must be looking for someone," Dale thought at the time. The light proceeds to B, directly ahead of the truck, and now turns right toward them, approaching point C, where Dale has now stopped the pickup to watch, his engine idling. The UFO (for Dale cannot identify it) comes to rest just above a tree 40 feet away from the truck, hovers silently and tilts toward them at what seems to Dale a precarious angle, revealing four colored lights at the base of the small cupola atop the craft. Two "headlights" now shine directly down on the truck.

"That's when it tilted, and for about 45 seconds it didn't move at all. I took all this in. I listened for sound...I looked for wind and movement. It didn't even quiver. It was just motionless. Just sat there."

Dale and his companion become thoroughly alarmed and move off to D, temporarily losing sight of the UFO. Dale brakes the truck abruptly. The UFO, which apparently was directly overhead, overshoots the truck to the left and once again stops, and again shining its lights directly down on the truck.

This time it takes only 5 seconds for Dale to take his leave. It is now only a short way to Highway 43; gaining it,

Dale proceeds northward toward Interstate 20. The UFO now rises, turns counter-clockwise, and heads northwest. Now for the next six or seven minutes they see the UFO change its course to the north, and then finally to the east, disappearing into the distance.

Dale remarked that he had been ribbed about his sighting: "I don't mind if they joke about it, because I would have been the same way. I had to have an experience like this to convince me. It's not like it was way off and could have been a light, or could have been a plane, or could have been a helicopter. I have never seen anything like it, and I don't know of anything like it in this world. We don't have a technology to hover like that."

It was at C, the point of closest contact, that John Combest and Jean Fuller had Dale re-enact the event and make distance and size estimates. Fig. 3 reconstructs the situation. The slant range to the object was about 70 feet (the mean of two computations, one using the distance to the tree and the angle of elevation, the other using the principle of similar triangles from measurements at the car); in any case, less than 100 feet. The calculated size is 23 feet; the witness guessed at 18-20 feet. The width of the headlights are calculated to be approximately 2½ feet in diameter.

Describing the encounter at D, Dale remarked, "It wasn't much higher above us here, kept about the same elevation and tilt. They had the lights directly on us at this time too." What intrigued Dale about the lights was that only a limited area around the truck was lighted up, "just six or seven feet around the truck. The thing that got me about the two lights is that you would think that the lights from that distance would disperse a little bit more, but the beams stayed pretty much the same width."

"I fully believe they had their lights directly on us," Dale added, "They weren't just lights that happened to light up the area."

"I left first (from Point D). It then rose and turned at the same time. It did this all at once. Whoever controlled it had real good control over it. It wasn't in a real big hurry to get away, but in a few seconds it doubled its altitude. The lights from the little windows looked like lights behind a window shade, like you're looking through an opaque substance."

Referring to the view back at C, Dale remarked, "There wasn't a thing hidden about it...it was in full view. It had a dull metallic look to it and it had faint yellowish streaks down its sides...that shows how close it was to us...dainty looking streaks, like it needed a

good wash job. Maybe it needed to go through a good UFO-Wash!"

After the encounter was all over, Dale and his companion proceeded along Highway 43, discussing the sighting excitedly. They then pulled off the road again to watch the UFO in the distance.

"We watched it going off. I even blinked my lights at it but they weren't paying us any mind then."

They last saw it as it accelerated eastward. No reports from that direction were made, another example of the highly localized nature of this type of UFO sighting.

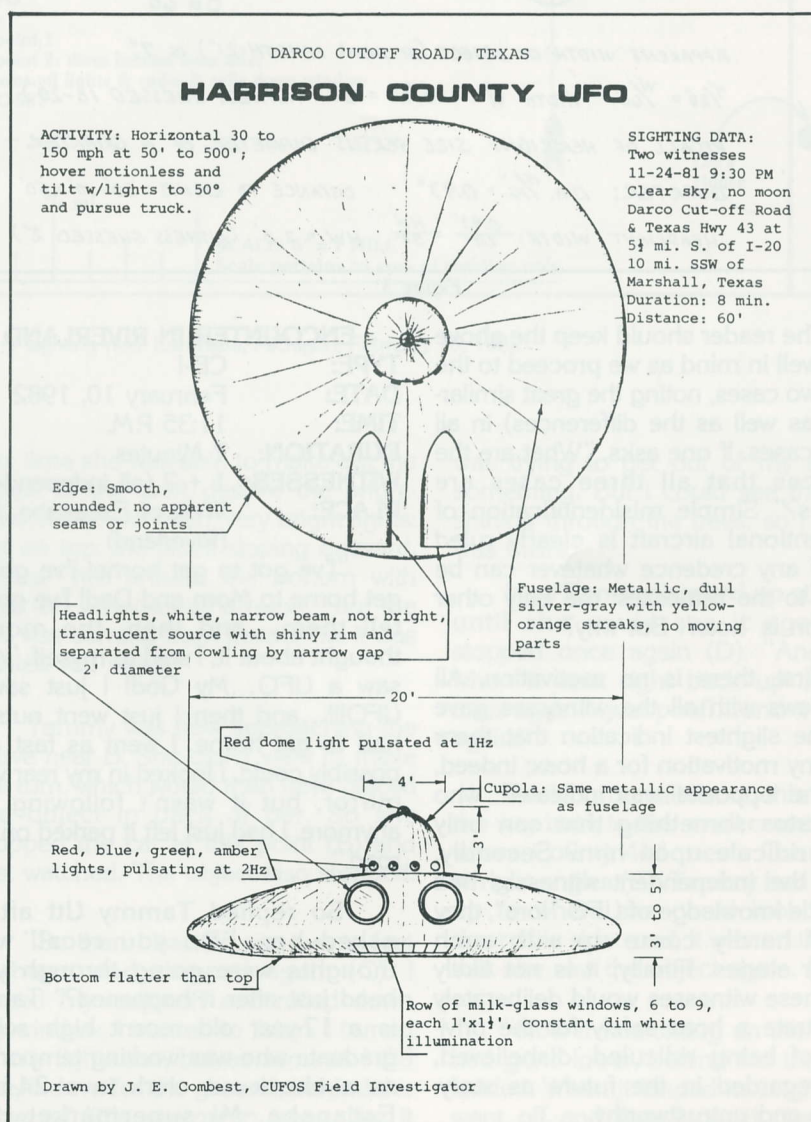


Figure 2

Nocturnal Rural Encounters

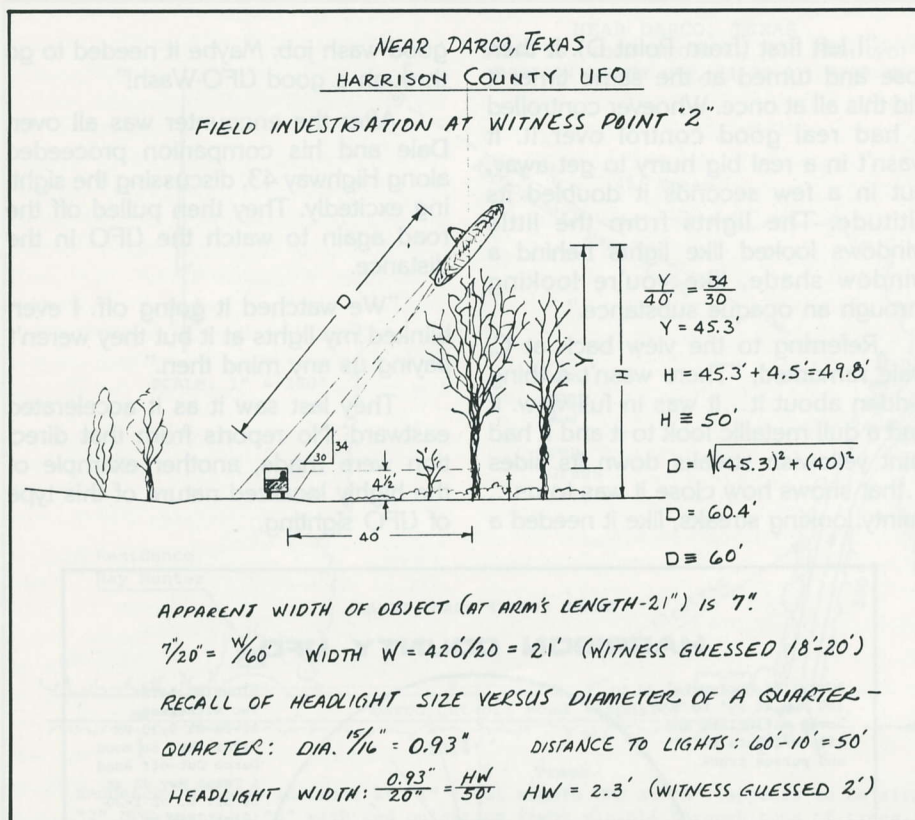


Figure 3

The reader should keep the above case well in mind as we proceed to the next two cases, noting the great similarities (as well as the differences) in all three cases. If one asks, "What are the chances that all three cases are hoaxes?" Simple misidentification of conventional aircraft is clearly ruled out, if any credence whatever can be given to the witnesses; the only other solution is 'hoax'. But why?

First, there is no motivation. All interviews with all the witnesses gave not the slightest indication that there was any motivation for a hoax; indeed, just the opposite was indicated: who fabricates something that can only heap ridicule upon him? Secondly, since the independent witnesses had but little knowledge of UFO "lore", they could hardly come up with such similar stories. Finally, it is not likely that these witnesses would deliberately perpetrate a hoax solely for the privilege of being ridiculed, disbelieved, and regarded in the future as storytellers and untrustworthy.

ENCOUNTER IN RIVERLAND

TYPE: CE-I
DATE: February 10, 1982
TIME: 11:35 P.M.
DURATION: 7 Minutes
WITNESSES: 1 + 2 (all independent)
PLACE: West of Escanaba, MI
(Riverland)

"I've got to get home! I've got to get home to Mom and Dad! I've got to tell them...and then, the more I thought about it, I said to myself: 'I just saw a UFO...My God! I just saw a UFO!!!...and then I just went nuts...I had to get home. I went as fast as I possibly could. I looked in my rear view mirror, but it wasn't following me anymore. I had just left it parked on the road."

So replied Tammy Utt after I asked her, "Do you recall what thoughts were going through your head just after it happened?" Tammy is a 17-year old recent high school graduate who was working temporarily as a check-out clerk in a 24-hour Escanaba, MI supermarket. She

expects to continue her schooling, and has just enrolled in a Bell and Howell computer training program.

Tammy had been coming home from the supermarket, a journey of nearly a half-hour (the Utts live well out in the country). It was just after 11:30 P.M.; the night was clear and there was a bright, nearly full moon. The attached map traces Tammy's journey and indicated the critical spots along the way.

It was Dr. Kenneth Schellhase, Professor of History at the Northern Michigan University, and contributing editor to this publication, who had first alerted the Center to this case; he had already interviewed Tammy and her parents before I joined him in Escanaba to further delve into the particulars of this encounter.

In the course of this inquiry we discovered the existence of two additional and completely independent witnesses. As is our custom, we asked the primary witness to relive her experience "on location." First, in order to time the duration of the event we asked her to relive the experience as though she were alone and it were happening again (it was approximately the same time of night also) and secondly, to repeat the process but this time describing it as she went along, without regard to timing; the first run had yielded seven minutes as the total duration of the encounter.

The photograph (Figs. 5, 6) correspond to the places indicated on the map. The rural nature of the countryside is apparent. Tammy is very familiar with this road, traveling to and from the supermarket. Never before had anything unusual happened to her on this familiar journey.

Tammy had arrived at "A" (see map), just having turned left. Suddenly she saw two most unfamiliar lights, just above the trees in the field. "As I turned that corner," she said, "I looked up and there were these bright lights, like headlights in the sky. They were

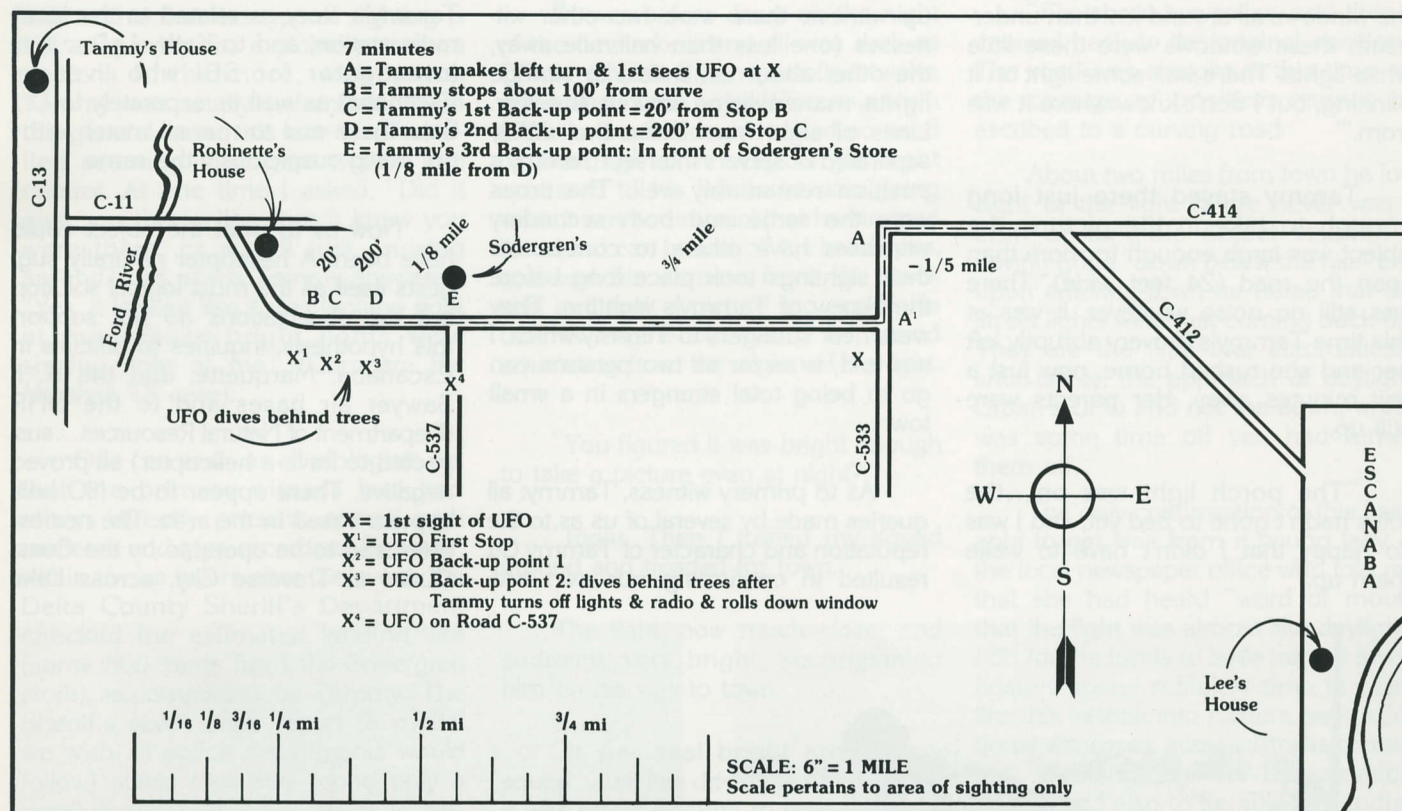


Figure 4: Map of sighting near Escanaba, Michigan, February 10, 1982

staying in one spot, but they backed up as I got closer to them. Now the road turns to the right again (A')...I was heading west again. Now it (i.e., the lights) came closer to the road and it followed me all the way down that road." (A' to B). The object was now close by, viewed through the window on the driver's side.

"How could you be sure it wasn't way beyond the trees and just looked like it was over the trees?," she was asked.

"Because it was just there...right there!," Tammy replied.

As Tammy approached B, she slowed down to watch this curious apparition. Adding to its strangeness, she saw a 'mist' coming from the rear of it that looked like "lit up snowflakes." By

this time she was able to make out the shape of the craft despite the brightness of the two main, very bright lights: flat on top, the sides sloping outward, and a "rim around the bottom with little red windows all around...but the red was coming from inside, like it was lighted red inside."

Tammy was now approaching the curve near B. She didn't want to make the turn, which would then have placed the object in back of her. So she stopped the car at this point (B) and just watched. The object also stopped.

"So then I backed up, twenty feet perhaps, and stopped again (C). I turned my radio off and rolled down my window, I wanted to listen. I turned off my lights too, but as soon as I did that, it dove for the ground, behind the grove of little evergreen trees, like it

was trying to get out of my sight or something. But I could see the lights shining through the trees, so I knew it was theirs."

Now Tammy backed up still more until she could see it again and stopped once again (D). "And that's when it went right back up over the trees again...just poof!...and it was up again."

Backing up still more, this time all the way back to the small country store where County 414 meets County 537 at right angles (E), Tammy had backed up to where she could look directly down this side road. It was on this road that she saw the object again. (Fig. 6).

"Now it was sitting on the road. It had gone lower, behind the trees, and landed. When it landed its bright lights went off and now I could clearly see

Nocturnal Rural Encounters

the windows all around it...then underneath these windows were these little white lights. There was some light on it blinking, but I don't know where it was from."

Tammy stayed there just long enough to take in the picture: the object was large enough to more than span the road (24 feet wide). There was still no noise whatever. It was at this time Tammy's bravery abruptly left her and she rushed home, now just a few minutes away. Her parents were still up.

"The porch light was on...the folks hadn't gone to bed yet, and I was so happy that I didn't have to wake them up."

up witness, there were two other witnesses (one less than half-mile away, the other about ten miles) to strange lights maneuvering low in the sky. Lines of sight from these two widely separated observers intersect Tammy's position remarkably well. The times were the same and both secondary witnesses have others to corroborate their sightings took place long before they knew of Tammy's sighting. They were near strangers to Tammy which, I am told, is as far as two persons can go to being total strangers in a small town.

As to primary witness, Tammy: all queries made by several of us as to the reputation and character of Tammy Utt resulted in confirming our own esti-

Tammy's story as related to the local radio station, and to Kathy LeDuc (an investigator for SBI who lives in Escanaba) as well as separately to Dr. Schellhase and to me, all match without being suspiciously the same.

Now as to what the object could have been: A helicopter naturally suggests itself as the most logical solution but the observations do not support this hypothesis. Inquiries to officials in Escanaba, Marquette, and the K. I. Sawyer air bases and to the DNR (Department of Natural Resources...suspected to have a helicopter) all proved negative. There appear to be NO helicopters based in the area. The nearest one used to be operated by the Coast Guard at Traverse City, across Lake



Figure 5: Tammy Utt and Dr. Hynek near Point B



Figure 6: Looking down Road 537 from Point E

She rapidly related her story. Mr. Utt remarked that she "nearly tore the door off its hinges" in her excitement as she came bounding in. As she was telling her story a car came down the road that runs directly in front of the Utt house and "she like to went up the wall. All she could see was the bright car lights with that Balsam tree in the way...she thought it was happening all over again."

So there we have Tammy's story. Its similarity to the previous case and the one following this is striking. Although Tammy was the only close-

mate of her as a normal, healthy 17-year old, much more interested in her social contacts in town and just enough in her school work to establish herself as a good student, than in any unusual topics and, certainly until now, no interest in UFOs.

Rather pleased at the attention her sighting has given her, she appears not to have let it go to her head or to seek publicity (enough came to her without her asking). Open and mildly extraverted, she appears as an outgoing, friendly, normal girl, not given to storytelling or practical jokes. Transcripts of

Michigan. Sawyer AFB informs us that helicopters rarely land at Sawyer and moreover, nothing was detected on their radars that night in the area of the sighting.

The complete absence of sound, acutely listened for, from an object so close argues convincingly against the helicopter hypothesis as do the maneuvers of the object itself; finally, we consider the implausibility of a helicopter cruising so close to the ground, late at night, in a rural area, and landing on a small country road despite the presence of telephone wires alongside.

Add to this that this type of sighting is not unique but fits a global pattern, a pattern furthermore, with which Tammy was totally unfamiliar. As in the general case, this one also exhibited seeming intelligent action and control. At one time I asked, "Did it give you the feeling that it knew you were there, or was it just cruising around?" to which Tammy answered, "Yes, it looked like it was looking right at me...those bright lights were shining right at me." (Compare the Marshall TX case).

One can wish, as all ufologists do, that the primary witness had had others directly present, armed with cameras and tape recorders. However, within twelve hours after the event, the Delta County Sheriff's Department checked the estimated landing site (some 300 yards from the Sodergren store), accompanied by Tammy. The Sheriff's seven page report (a model we wish all police departments would follow) states that they found only a small (5 feet wide, 2 feet deep) depression in the snow bank on one side of the road and a 30 foot-long stretch of thick hardened snow, broken and cracked, on the other. Dr. Schellhase visited the scene some sixty hours after the event and confirmed the above and collected a water/snow sample at the site. An expensive analysis does not seem warranted in the absence of any convincing landing marks.

THE UFO THAT SWITCHED OFF THE TOWN LIGHTS

TYPE: CE-I (II)
DATE: February 24, 1982
TIME: 5:15 A.M.
DURATION: 10 minutes
WITNESSES: 1 plus several distant possible
PLACE: 12 miles W. of Neilsville, WI. (to 2 miles W. of town)

Note: Unlike the first two cases in this triad, this was investigated only by phone. I plan a personal follow-up in the near future.

It was before dawn on the night of the new moon and all was dark as Officer Chuck Urban patrolled twelve miles west of the small Wisconsin town of Neilsville. Suddenly he had no need of headlights. A very bright light appeared to his left as he was going west. It was so unusual that he stopped his squad car, turned off his headlights, grabbed his camera from the back seat and took a picture (no good). He cut his engine but heard no sound emanating from the region of the light.

"You figured it was bright enough to take a picture even at night?"

"Right. Then I turned my squad around and headed for town."

The light, now much closer and suddenly very bright, accompanied him on his way to town.

"It was real bright around my squad...just like driving in the daylight. It was bright enough to read the legal pad on the seat next to me...everything was lit up to where I could see everything plain. I was running without headlights at that time. I could see the road very plain...it was that bright...you could see the woods about 100-200 yards in either direction."

Officer Urban just kept right on toward town, keeping in touch with headquarters. He asked them to look for the light and, as you might expect, they immediately spotted Venus! This, however, was not the light in question. I asked Officer Urban to go out the next clear night and identify Venus, which he did, just to satisfy me. But, of course, one does not drive without headlights on the night of the New Moon just by the light of Venus!

"At one point (on the way to town) it moved ahead of me and across the highway."

"How long did it stay to the north of you...ever go back to the south again?"

"For about two miles, and then it crossed back to the original position." The road was straight at this time, so the change of position cannot be ascribed to a curving road.

About two miles from town he lost sight of the light (there never was a craft or tangible object visible), it having gone "down below the hill." But upon entering town he noted that the street lights were just coming back on. They are the type that automatically shut off on the approach of daylight. Urban's UFO and not the dawn, which was some time off yet, had turned them off.

The only confirmation of this I was able to get was from a young lady at the local newspaper office who told me that she had heard "word of mouth that the light was almost like daylight" (Oh for the funds to have trained investigators spend sufficient time in cases like this to look into rumors, seek additional witnesses, assess witness characters, follow through for later developments, and also to be able to conduct psychological and polygraph tests as well as laboratory tests in physical trace cases.) In this instance, with only phone interviews to guide us, much is left undone. But let the witness sum it up for us as far as it goes:

"Sitting home and thinking about this whole thing, I'm convinced that what I saw out there was not anything mechanical or a star etc. It was a light I've never seen before. Its movement was very precise...it moved with me. I tried various things to see if it was an illusion. At one time it picked up speed and got ahead of me...directly in front...then southeast, then south, and then southeast again. There wasn't any up and down motion, but very deliberate programmed motion. I know the area. I hunt out there...I never believed in them until I saw this rascal."

The similarities in these three cases are obvious, as is their similarity to hundreds of other such cases over the years. The task of the skeptic to explain all of them as chimera is becoming exceedingly difficult! IUR

St. Helens Revisited

Mark Rodeghier

The investigation of UFO reports is often a haphazard business, due principally to lack of funds. We must often rely upon "the kindness of strangers" (to quote Tennessee Williams) in order to pursue our work. Nowhere was this better demonstrated than in the investigation and re-investigation of the St. Helens, Oregon incident of March 17, 1981 (see May-June, 1981 IUR). This sighting was important because it involved independent witnesses and a recording of the sound, presumably emitted by the UFO, made by the policemen involved. Despite this it was impossible for any Center member to conduct a personal investigation. However, Allen Braden, locally on the scene, did the best he could under rather trying circumstances.

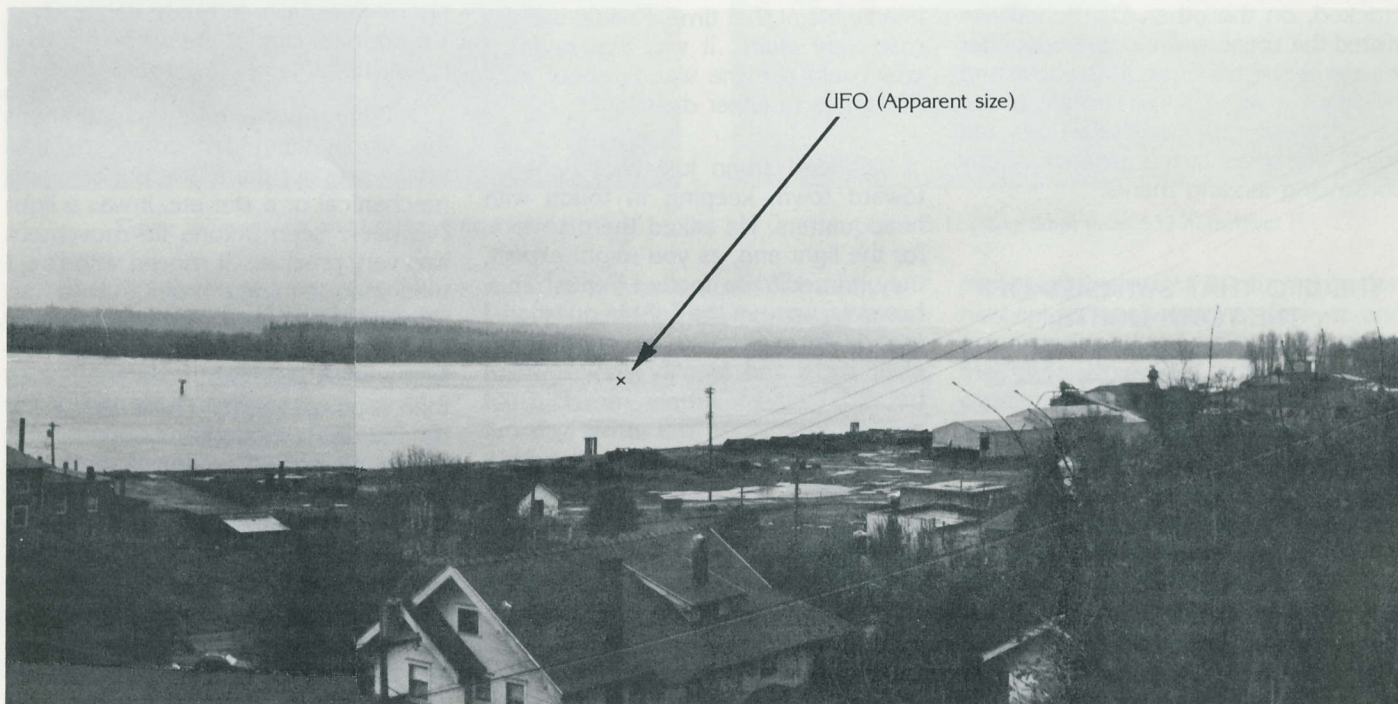
In February an opportunity for a more complete investigation presented itself: TV station KATU in Portland, Oregon requested someone from CUFOS to appear on their Town Hall

show. I was elected to go, the station paid my expenses, and I had the opportunity of spending two days after the show conducting the reinvestigation. I had the very great help of Helen and John Zeller, local investigators for MUFON, who not only chauffeured me while in Oregon but have continued to check many details for which time was lacking during my visit. (Ed note: The Center officially wishes to acknowledge the excellent cooperation of MUFON on this and other occasions; it is a heartening situation.)

Here now is the revised account of the St. Helens UFO event:

At 4:03 A.M. on March 17, 1981, Sgt. Russell Yokum of the St. Helens Police Department, on routine patrol on US Highway 30, west of the Columbia River [which runs southeast to north west by St. Helens (see map)] saw a bright light going upriver, toward the Portland airport, some 20 miles distant. Although the light appeared to

be on a normal approach pattern, its extreme brightness immediately convinced Yokum that it was not an aircraft. While radioing headquarters, he drove the two miles to the County Courthouse, on the banks of the Columbia river, losing sight of the light during the drive. At the Courthouse, he was joined by Officers Ricky Cade and Tom McCartney of the Oregon State Police, and a few citizens, despite the very early hour. By then, Yokum was talking over his CB with a Donald Askins (Lucky 13) in Ridgefield, Washington, almost directly across the river. Atkins **reported** seeing the same light which he said had illuminated the whole area and turned reddish-orange (from white) as it neared the river. My investigation now revealed that in our initial report, last year, the account of what the officers were observing from the courthouse was incorrect. We had understood that they saw one UFO, over Sauvie Island, while Lucky had observed a second near Ridgefield, over the river.



Picture taken from high bluff in St. Helens where Yokum, Cade, McCartney and others watched the UFO and heard the sound. (Looking Southeast)

The fact of the matter is that when they got to the Courthouse they mistook a stationary light (it's there every night) for the light Yokum had lost sight of. But this night, because of the variable fog, it had appeared to be bobbing up and down, and they thought that this was the UFO being described by Lucky 13.

Meanwhile, Lucky 13 kept insisting that the light he saw was stationary. The officers finally got the idea that he and they were watching two different "UFOs." They turned to the south and...there was the UFO! Much larger than the light they had been observing, it was also brighter. It stood out starkly, hovering low over the Columbia River in an area where there are very few, and then, faint, lights. (See Fig. 1 for relative locations of UFO and observers).

At about 4:20 A.M. the observers repaired to a nearby high bluff which afforded them an excellent view of the light, Lucky 13 meanwhile continuing to chatter away. The latter appears to be somewhat of a "character" and drifter; at least, I was unable to locate him, it having been rumored that he had moved to the Tacoma, Washington area.

By examining the view from near the Atkins' rented house, looking southwest towards the Columbia River, it becomes evident that the river cannot be seen and trees and houses block a clear view of the sky. All this makes Atkins' testimony suspect with regard to details such as size and his statement that the UFO may have fallen into the river. The fact remains, however, that Atkins, an independent witness, almost certainly saw what the others did. However, I don't believe that Atkins could have seen the UFO for most of the time. At one point on the tape he states, "I can't see a thing...no light or nothing." This, when the sound from the UFO was still present. Yet he still made estimates of size and distance to our earlier investigator!

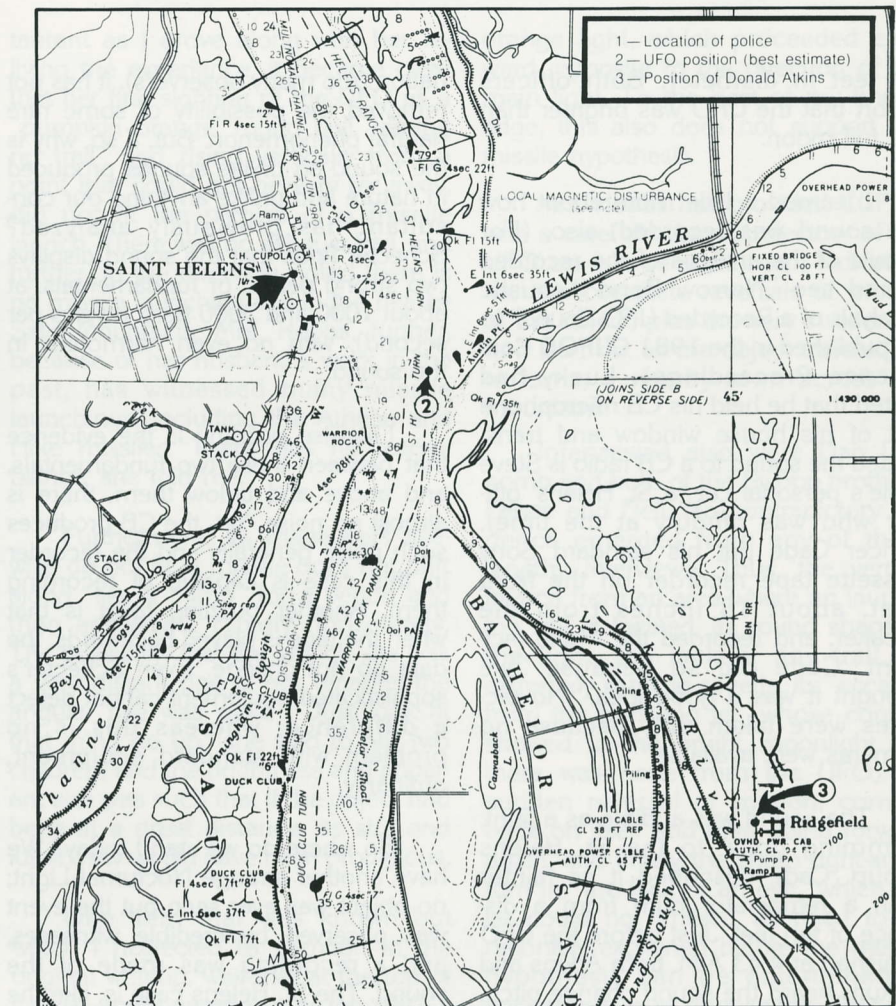


Figure 1

Our photograph depicts the view across the river from the location atop the bluff; the UFO position is marked with an "X". Both Yokum and Cade (McCartney refused to be interviewed again) confirmed that they could hear the sound from the UFO directly, and not just over the CB radio. This is an important point; it removes the possibility of a hoax tape on the part of Atkins. Located about 4 miles from the others, he would have needed quite a loudspeaker to broadcast a sound audible in St. Helens. Further, it would have to be a sound which Mr. Schechter tells us he has never come across before in all his years of audio analysis. He would also have been prepared to act just when a UFO happened into the area,

for the officers did see something that was clearly unexplainable to them... that is, a UFO.

Both Yokum and Cade described the light as spherical, showing no structure. Cade calls it orange-red in color; Yokum, light orange. Yokum also likened it to the center of the tip of an arc welder seen through the welder's filtered lens. Both men thought it was over the river, with Yokum reporting seeing its reflection off the water. He estimates it was hovering some 80-100 feet above the water. By using their estimates of apparent size (one-half that of the full moon) and distance, we calculate the light to have been about

St. Helens Revisited

30 feet in diameter. Both officers report that the UFO was brighter than the full moon.

I learned a little more about how the sound was recorded, also. (For details of the analysis of the recorded sound see "Narrow Band Acoustic Analysis of a Recorded UFO Sound" to be published in the **1981 CUFOS Conference Proceedings**). Lucky had stated that he held his CB microphone out of his house window and transmitted the sound to a CB radio is Steve Salle's personal car (a St. Helens' officer who was off-duty at the time). Officer Cade put his standard Sony cassette tape recorder on the front seat, about 18 inches from the speaker, and recorded the whole incident. Cade did so because "we thought it was a good idea." No pictures were taken only because no cameras were available.

The sound was audible as a faint, humming noise to the St. Helens group. Cade described it as fainter than a refrigerator hum from a distance of ten feet. Just before the UFO vanished at 4:43 A.M. both Atkins and Yokum heard the sound change pitch, like a turbine winding down. It was then that the UFO blinked out of existence ...one moment it was there; the next, gone! All observers agree that the sound and the light disappeared simultaneously.

One puzzling thing is that the sound from the light, which was less than a mile from the officers but three miles from Atkins, was so much louder from Atkins position. Was there some amplification because of the radio transmission? This remains a puzzle.

Our reinvestigation has confirmed the authenticity of this UFO case. We now discount explanations such as the moon (it was very low in the western sky, slightly to the north of west, and that morning set at 5:20 A.M.), a dope-smuggling boat (implausible; why light up the area) a balloon, or an halluci-

nation (too many observers). It has not removed the possibility of some rare natural phenomenon. But, if so, why is the sound so unlike sounds produced in nature and unlike anything our consultant has previously analyzed? Schecter finds that the sound displays two strong peaks, or fundamentals, at about 1000 and 3000 hertz (cycles per second), with no even harmonics in the sound.

Likewise puzzling is the evidence that between these two fundamentals, and above and below them, there is almost no noise. Yet, the CB produces such noise generally and the recorder in this case is capable of recording them. Another puzzling facet is that when the tape is played backwards, the data do not change. Even Schecter's sophisticated equipment cannot detect a difference, whereas this is no problem with standard equipment, ordinarily.

So where do we stand today? We have another strange Nocturnal Light; no object was ever seen but the event was observed by credible witnesses, and a recording was made of the sound. The St. Helens case is, like the Logrono, Spain case (which will be reviewed in the next issue), one of the very few for which the recorded sound has been analyzed.

The Center has received from the Zeller's a tape of the ambient sounds, at that time of night, at the place where the St. Helens tape was made, and under the same conditions. This process can further refine the analysis, particularly because the nearby Boise-Cascade paper mill (about one mile south) was operating that night. But this incident and its attendant sound may only become intelligible in the future, after other UFO sounds have been recorded and analyzed. Our work, however, must continue, perhaps taking heart from these words by philosopher Bertrand Russell. "Do not fear to be eccentric in opinion, for every opinion now accepted was once eccentric."

IJR

Looking Forward...

The Logrono (Spain) UFO And Sound Recording

The St. Helens event, whose investigation is updated in this issue brings to mind the much older and much discussed Logrono case (see for example FSR Vol. 19, No. 2, March-April 1973). It is a most bizarre case and the recording of the sound produced in some way by the UFO (it actually came over the radio) had been examined in several laboratories in the world. Mr. Schecter, our audio expert, however, believes that the Logrono sound would be reproducible by anyone who has some expertise with electronic equipment. This seems not to be the opinion of other experts. Yet it was Mr. Schecter who tells us that the St. Helens sound would be quite difficult to reproduce!

In any event, the Logrono case has been recently treated and reviewed by Dr. Willy Smith, our corresponding editor and Spanish specialist, and will appear in the next issue. The authenticity of the Logrono case, Dr. Smith tells us, rests largely on the integrity of the witness, a seminarist in the College of the Escolapian Priests in Logrono who, as far as we know, is as far from being versed in electronics as probably Dr. Smith is from the theological arcana of the Escolapian Priests. It is an astounding story and if it all happened as stated, presents the UFO enigma in still another dimension. IJR

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IJR

Looking Backwards...

Update On The Reserve, N.M. "Tube-Like" UFO

(See IUR, March 1982: Hunting Old and New UFOs in New Mexico)

Taking advantage of a sudden opportunity on April 10 to visit the Reserve N.M. area with Lee Williams, Special Events Director of station KOB-TV, Albuquerque, N.M., I had the unexpected chance to interview separately all the witnesses to the UFO event of Dec. 8, 1981. It was the independence of these witnesses that lent importance to this case. There was, however, the possibility that the observed object had been a missile of an entirely new design. In the March issue of IUR the choice of the "Lady or the Tiger" still seemed open. the possibility of a missile now seems quite remote and it appears that we have another UFO to add to the ever growing list.

The reader should refer to the original account for details; here I'll state only the arguments strengthening the UFO interpretation which these later and personal interviews brought forth.

Tracing Mrs. Hobbs route (and incidentally, I found her to be a surprisingly intelligent and coherent witness) from Reserve to the Dan Luscomb res-

taurant as I drove along with her reliving the experience, it became clear that her first sighting of the UFO as a "pumpkin orange, round ball, leaving no trail" and rising vertically from a point that could not be very far away, did not fit the picture of a missile launch. There was no exhaust trail, and further, in the direction noted there is no missile launching site in the nearby Saliz Mountains. Mrs. Hobbs, further, because of her husband's work in the past, has witnessed many missile launchings, including the Athena and Nike missiles. There was no resemblance, she told me.

Furthermore, its maneuvers likewise do not fit: a missile does not drift along "like a blimp" for a period and then accelerate rapidly horizontally. The possibility that the launch site was a very distant one is not tenable: the angular rise was rapid ("Just look at that thing go up" she said to her two children) and the brightness and apparent size was such that if the object had been at a great distance, its size and luminosity would have been prodigious.

One item that was known but which I neglected to mention in the original writeup, was that at the top of its rise, there came out of the UFO a blue ball, much smaller than the

orange light, which proceeded eastward, opposite to the direction of the main light. To the best of my knowledge, this also does not support the missile hypothesis.

Mrs. Hobbs has provided CUFOS with a carefully drawn trajectory of the UFO on a large scale map, indicating the two complete reversals of motion of the object, plus the very sudden 90° turn later on, as the object traveled on to Luna, a nearby town across the mountains.

Interviewed also were Dan Luscomb and both of the Swopp brothers, Lance and Neil. No contradictory evidence emerged from any of these lengthy interviews. Thus, the vertical launch from an area where no launching site is located, its round shape of the light, the lack of any trail, its extremely variable speeds, its "escape" from the pursuing jet (whose contrail showed in the bright moonlight but there was none from the UFO). its sudden reversal of motion, coming back on itself and then going forward again, and finally the sharp right-angle turn in "the flick of an eye" which the jet could not imitate, all need to be rationally explained before the missile hypothesis can be entertained. It appears we must choose the Tiger and not the Lady. After all, Athena is a lady.

IJR

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Invitations...

Proposed CUFOS UFO Tour To Great Britain In August 1983

We want to find out how many readers would be interested in attending the Third London International UFO Congress, August 26-29, 1983 and then spending a few days with Mimi and Allen Hynek visiting UFO groups and spots of related interest in and about England. Since plans must be made far in advance, this is not too early to announce these tentative plans. If the response for a small party is good, we shall proceed. Please note 'small'; we're not in the tour conducting business and believe that a party of 10 or 15 would be just about the right size.

The day previous to the opening of the Congress, sponsored by BUFORA (British UFO Research Association), Dr. Peter Hill will convene a meeting of the International Committee for UFO Research, which now has many participating countries, including Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Canada and the United States and Yugoslavia. It is expected that by mid-1983 these will be joined by Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Japan, Malaysia, Romania, Saudi Arabia and the USSR.

About Our March 1982 Cover Photo...

Our readers have great ideas... about how the March cover (the Pring photo) could have been faked. Some are very clever. Perhaps we ought to run a contest and award a prize of a crocheted UFO to the winner!. We'll sort out all these ideas and let you know about them next time. In the meantime, if YOU have an idea of how you think a picture like that could have been made, well, write us. But please be specific; it really isn't enough to say, "Oh, it must have been done with an oscilloscope, or something."

Maybe we should ask Mr. Pring to be one of the judges! Of course, Mr. Pring maintains that it all happened as he originally stated, and he states that he is willing to take a polygraph test. He says he saw the lights pass over the

car. Further, Pring has no darkroom facilities in his home and, although reasonably knowledgeable about photography, would, in my opinion, have had to have professional assistance in perpetrating a hoax. Finally, to what purpose?

Actually, despite Mr. Pring's avowal that he actually saw the lights and would be willing to take a polygraph test, there is a way in which both "sides" could be correct; that is, a way in which the lights can have a natural explanation without labeling Mr. Pring a hoaxter. We **think** we may have a solution, but more tests are necessary. In the meantime, let us have **your** solutions or, better yet, send to us a photograph you have made which duplicates our March cover.

IUR

Dr. Hill has suggested that our "tour party" include, in addition to London, Warminster, Nottingham, Edinburgh, and perhaps several other points of interest. The possibility of including Dublin also exists.

Any reader interested, please write directly to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, PO Box 1402, Evanston, IL 60204.

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